

**MANSFIELD DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION COMMITTEE**

**February 11, 2016**

**5:00 PM**

**Meet at Gansett Wraps followed by Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office  
23 Royce Circle**

**MINUTES**

Present: Steve Rogers, Jess Chiep on behalf of Ron Liu of H.A. Café, Rene Schein, Michael Young

Staff: Cynthia van Zelm

**1. Call to Order**

Steve Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:05 at Gansett Wraps. Rene Schein, Mike Young and Cynthia van Zelm were in attendance. Owner Bahaa Mahmoud gave a tour of Gansett Wraps.

The group then stopped in at ThinkItDrinkIt and spoke briefly to Logan Thorpe.

Jess Chiep joined the meeting at the Partnership office.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2015 and December 10, 2015**

Ms. Schein made a motion to approve the September 28, 2015 minutes. Mr. Rogers seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Ms. Schein made a motion to approve the December 10, 2015 minutes. Mr. Rogers seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**4. Business Visits/Reception**

Mr. Rogers said that Mr. Young and Kim Cash with Bliss have joined the Committee.

He suggested continuing with the visitations as were done today. Mr. Rogers suggested that the Committee visit Blaze Pizza at its next meeting. He will follow-up with Blaze management. The Committee could also visit Bliss.

Mr. Rogers said his goal is for the Committee to have a profile and visibility so businesses know who they can talk to about issues.

Ms. Schein suggested sending each business a letter to introduce the Committee. Ms. van Zelm said she would put together an initial draft for the next meeting, noting that a similar letter was done a few years ago.

**5. Business Concerns/Questions**

Mr. Rogers and Mr. Young said it can be difficult to track how the marketing dollars paid to the landlord are being spent.

In response to a question from Mr. Young about the function of the Committee, Mr. Rogers said he reports major issues to the Board of Directors. The Committee serves as a conduit to hear/address business issues.

There was some discussion about a merchants committee run by the businesses.

Ms. Schein said she feels the Partnership listens to issues and being part of the Partnership gives the businesses more standing.

Mr. Rogers suggested revisiting the Committee charge at the next meeting. Ms. van Zelm said the strategic planning process will also help inform the various committees' charges and whether the same committees make sense with the current and future Partnership mission.

## **6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

*Minutes taken by Cynthia van Zelm.*